

Contents

List of Tables	2
Feature Article: HIV Infection in South Australia, 01/07/96 – 30/06/98.....	3
HIV infection in South Australia.....	6
Hepatitis C surveillance in South Australia	8
Hepatitis B surveillance in South Australia	11
Genital chlamydial infection in South Australia.....	13
Gonococcal infection in South Australia.....	15
Clinic 275 activity report.....	16

List of Tables

Table 1.1	HIV infection detected in South Australia, 1985 - 30/09/98. Exposure category by sex.....	6
Table 1.2	HIV infection detected in South Australia between 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Exposure category and sex.	7
Table 1.3	HIV infection detected in South Australia between 01/07/98 -30/09/98 and year to date. Testing history by age at diagnosis.	7
Table 1.4	Summary of HIV antibody tests performed between 1/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Laboratory by sex.....	7
Table 2.1	Hepatitis C infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Exposure category by sex.....	8
Table 2.2	Hepatitis C infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Age group by sex.	9
Table 2.3	Incident cases of hepatitis C infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Exposure category by sex.	9
Table 2.4	Incident cases of hepatitis C infection, 01/07/98 -30/09/98 and year to date. Age group by sex.....	9
Table 2.5	Summary of laboratory tests for hepatitis C antibodies performed between 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Laboratory by sex.....	10
Table 3.1	Acute hepatitis B infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Exposure category by sex.....	11
Table 3.2	Acute hepatitis B infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Age group by sex.	11
Table 3.3	Hepatitis B infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Case category by sex.....	12
Table 3.4	Individuals who tested hepatitis B surface antigen positive for the first time, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Race by sex.	12
Table 3.5	Summary of hepatitis B surface antigen tests performed between 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Laboratory by sex.....	12
Table 4.1	Genital chlamydial infection in South Australia, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Age group by sex.....	13
Table 4.2	Summary of laboratory tests for genital chlamydia performed between 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Laboratory by sex.....	14
Table 5.1	Gonococcal infection detected in South Australia, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Age group by sex.....	15
Table 6.1	Clinic 275 - Summary Statistics.....	16
Table 6.2	Males diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhoea or syphilis at C275, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98. Exposure category by infection.....	17
Table 6.3	Males diagnosed with hepatitis C, hepatitis B or HIV infection at C275, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98. Exposure category by infection.....	17
Table 6.4	Females diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhoea or syphilis at C275, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98. Exposure category by infection.....	17
Table 6.5	Females diagnosed with hepatitis C, hepatitis B or HIV infection at C275, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98. Exposure category by infection.	18

In this and the following quarterly report our feature articles describe and analyse subsets of the population infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Data is collected by medical notification of HIV, supplementary information is obtained during interview with the HIV epidemiologist.

HIV Infection in South Australia, subset analysis of males notified between 01/07/96 and 30/09/98

Introduction

HIV infection was proclaimed a controlled notifiable infection in September 1991 with a legal requirement on medical practitioners to notify cases. HIV infection is reported directly to the Sexually Transmitted Disease Control Branch (STDCB) by the State Reference Laboratory for HIV (IMVS) and a medical notification is made by the attending medical practitioner.

The notification system uses a name code and seeks information on demographics, testing history, risk factors and client preference for follow up procedures. The attending doctor may determine the likely risk factors and undertake contact tracing; alternatively the client may be referred to the STDCB. When the clinical notification indicates the latter option the HIV epidemiologist contacts the attending doctor to ensure the client is aware of the referral to the STDCB.

HIV infection in South Australia, 01/07/96 - 30/09/98

There were 81 individuals diagnosed with HIV infection between 1 July 1996 and 30 June 1998, 69 (85%) males and 12 (15%) females. Of the males diagnosed 57 (83%) reported male to male sexual contact, one reported injecting drug use, one reported both risk factors and six (9%) reported heterosexual contact. Heterosexual contact was reported by nine females (Table 1.1).

Men notified with HIV infection in South Australia, 01/07/96 - 30/09/98

Incident cases of HIV infection are defined by a negative test for HIV in the previous 12 months or by diagnosed sero-conversion illness in the preceding 12 months. Of the 68 adult males notified, 17 (25%) were classified as incident cases and 51 were classified as infection of uncertain duration (prevalent cases). Some incident cases will not be detected because of the lack of a sero-conversion illness or evidence of a prior negative test. Of the 51 men who were prevalent cases, 31 (59%) had not been tested previously, 17 (33%) had a negative test more than 12 months previously and three were from overseas and known to be positive before being tested in Australia.

Men who were classified as incident cases were diagnosed at a younger age than those classified as prevalent cases. The mean age for incident cases was 33.2 years, compared to 40.1 years for prevalent cases ($p=0.02$). Overall, 75% of cases acquired their infection locally, and 77% identified as homosexual.

Exposure to HIV Infection

Surveillance data from laboratory and clinical notifications are supplemented with information obtained from client interviews conducted by the HIV epidemiologist. Obtaining risk factor information may be difficult in some situations because of the social stigma attached to the infection (homosexuality), particularly in those individuals who are or have been married.

The interview is not designed to determine whether individuals identify as gay. However, during the interview knowledge of the gay scene and association with gay men is assessed. It is apparent from the interviews that the majority of incident cases are in gay identifying males. Information is collected on the knowledge of their partners' HIV status and where they meet sexual partners. Knowledge of sexual partners is assessed and recorded in an hierarchical fashion. Those who know their partners or their partners' HIV status are recorded as having sex with known partners, even though they may on occasions engage in sexual activity with anonymous partners. Those classified as having anonymous sex reported no sexual activity with known partners during the time period in which they were likely to have been infected.

Of the 68 adult men notified, 51 (14 incident, 37 prevalent) were interviewed regarding their exposure to HIV. Nine men (5 incident, 4 prevalent) reported sexual intercourse with an HIV positive partner; 19 men (4 incident, 15 prevalent) reported sexual intercourse with a partner whose HIV status was unknown. Fourteen men (3 incident, 11 prevalent) reported sexual intercourse with an anonymous partner. Heterosexual contact was reported by seven men (2 incident, 5 prevalent), and four men reported sexual contact with an overseas partner whose HIV status was unknown (1 incident, 3 prevalent).

Of the 17 men (3 incident, 14 prevalent) not interviewed, four were aware of their partner's HIV infection. The notifying doctor opted to undertake contact tracing in 12 instances, two prevalent cases were lost to follow up and three men were medically unfit for contact tracing.

Table 1.1 HIV infection detected in South Australia 01/07/1996 – 30/06/1998. Exposure category by sex.

Exposure category	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Homosexual	57	83	na		57	70
Homosexual/IDU	1	1	na		1	1
Heterosexual	6	9	9	75	15	19
IDU	1	1	1	8	2	3
Congenital	1	1	-		1	1
Unknown	3	5	1	8	4	5
Other	-		1	8	1	1
Total	69		12		81	

**Summary characteristics of men notified with HIV infection in South Australia,
01/07/96 - 30/09/98.**

Characteristics	Incident cases		Uncertain duration	
Number of men diagnosed	n=17	(25%)	n=51	(75%)
Likely location where infection acquired				
South Australia	14	82%	37	72%
Interstate	2	12%	6	12%
Overseas	1	6%	8	16%
Sexual Identity				
Homosexual	14	82%	38	74%
Bisexual	1	6%	5	10%
Heterosexual	2	12%	5	10%
Other	-		3	6%
Age				
15-19	-		1	
20-24	3		4	
25-29	6		4	
30-34	2		9	
35-39	2		10	
40-44	1		4	
45-49	1		11	
50+	2		8	
Mean age at diagnosis (range)	33.2	(22-54 yrs)	40.1	(19-76 yrs)
Race				
Caucasian	16	94%	46	90%
Aboriginal	-		-	
Asian	1	6%	2	4%
African	-		3	6%
Testing History				
≤ 12 months	17	100%	-	
> 12 months	-		17	33%
Never tested	-		31	59%
Known positive from overseas	-		3	8%
CD4 count at diagnosis of HIV infection				
< 50	-		9	18%
51 - 200	-		10	20%
201 - 500	5	29%	15	29%
> 500	12	71%	12	23%
Unknown	-		5	10%
Cases interviewed re their exposure to HIV	14	83%	37	72%
Male homosexual/bisexual contact				
Sexual partner HIV positive	5	36%	4	11%
Sexual partner HIV status unknown	4	29%	15	41%
Sexual partner beats only	1	7%	3	8%
Sexual partner beats / sauna / venues	2	14%	8	22%
Overseas sexual partner, HIV status unknown	-		2	6%
Heterosexual Contact				
Overseas sexual partner, HIV status unknown	1	7%	3	8%
Sexual partner HIV status unknown	1	7%	-	
Injecting Drug Use	-		1	2%
Not specified	-		1	2%

October 1998

HIV INFECTION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

HIV Infection 1985 - 30/09/98

In South Australia 698 individuals have been diagnosed with HIV infection, 642 (92%) males and 56 (8%) females. Of the males, 495 (77%) reported male to male sexual contact, 52 (8%) reported injecting drug use and 27 (4%) reported both risk factors. Injecting drug use was reported by 23 (41%) females diagnosed with HIV infection and 27 (48%) reported heterosexual transmission.

HIV Infection 01/07/98 - 30/09/98

Four males were diagnosed with HIV infection in the third quarter of this year. Of the four males, three identified male to male sexual contact as their risk factor (Table 1.2).

Incident Cases 01/01/98 - 30/09/98

Five males who had acquired their infection in the preceding 12 months reported male to male sexual contact as their risk factor (Table 1.3).

Laboratory Screening For HIV Infection 01/07/98 - 30/09/98

During the third quarter of 1998, 21663 screening tests were performed; 10085 on males and 11472 on females, and 106 tests on individuals whose sex was unknown (Table 1.4).

Table 1.1 HIV infection detected in South Australia, 1985 - 30/09/98. Exposure category by sex.

Exposure Category	Male		Female		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Homosexual contact	495	77	-		495	71
Homosexual contact/IDU	27	4	-		27	4
Heterosexual contact	30	5	27	48	57	8
IDU	52	8	23	41	75	11
Blood products	7	1	2	4	9	1
Other	4	1	3	5	7	1
Unknown	27	4	1	2	28	4
Total	642		56		698	

na not applicable

Table 1.2 HIV infection detected in South Australia between 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Exposure category by sex.

Exposure Category	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98		Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98	
	Homosexual contact	3		16
Heterosexual contact	1		*4	
Unknown	-		*2	
Heterosexual/IDU	-		*1	
Total	4		23	

*includes 1 female

Table 1.3 HIV infection detected in South Australia between 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Testing history by age at diagnosis.

Testing History	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98			Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98			Total
	Age			Age			
	<25	25 - 39	40+	<25	25 - 39	40+	
Previous 12 months	-	-	1	-	2	3	5
> 12 months	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
No previous test	1	-	-	2	*6	4	12
Unknown	-	1	1	-	*3	2	5
Total	1	1	2	2	12	9	23

*includes females

Table 1.4 Summary of HIV antibody tests performed between 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Laboratory by sex.

Laboratory	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98			Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98			Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown	
Public	6501	8351	106	19224	23208	361	42793
Private	3584	3121	-	9550	8933	-	18483
Total	10085	11472	106	28774	32141	361	61276

HEPATITIS C SURVEILLANCE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Hepatitis C Medical Notification 01/07/98 - 30/09/98

In the third quarter of 1998, medical notifications of positive hepatitis C antibody tests were received for 379 individuals, 231 (61%) males and 148 (39%) females.

Among the notifications, 277 (73%) individuals had their first positive test for hepatitis C during 1998. Of these, 201 (73%) reported past or present injecting drug use as a likely transmission route for hepatitis C virus (Table 2.1). Of 42 individuals with a previous negative test, 23 were tested more than 12 months earlier, whilst 19 were tested within the last year. The majority of males, 115 (67%), were aged between 20 and 39 years; 78 (74%) women were aged between 20 and 39 years (Table 2.2).

Incident Cases

Nineteen incident cases were identified during the quarter, all had negative serology in the preceding 12 months. The incident cases comprised 7 females and 12 males. The probable mode of transmission for hepatitis C virus was injecting drug use in all cases (Table 2.3). Among females, the most common age-group at diagnosis was 20 to 24 years; six males were aged less than 20 years (Table 2.4).

Collated laboratory data for hepatitis C antibody tests performed during the quarter are shown in Table 2.5.

Table 2.1 Hepatitis C infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Exposure category by sex.

Exposure Category	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98		Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
IDU*	129	72	327	180	507
Blood transfusion/blood products	6	6	22	23	45
Tattoos	4	2	22	11	33
Other**	19	11	41	36	77
Unknown	14	14	40	32	72
Total	172	105	452	282	734

* includes IDU in combination with other categories.

** includes - body piercing, acupuncture, residence in a high prevalence country, household contact, positive sexual partner.

Table 2.2 Hepatitis C infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Age group by sex.

Age Group	3rd Quarter 01/07/98- 30/09/98		Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Under 10	-	1	-	1	1
10 - 19	12	5	18	23	41
20 - 29	52	35	135	84	219
30 - 39	63	43	172	101	273
40 - 49	34	16	90	45	135
50+	11	5	36	28	64
Unknown	-	-	1	-	1
Total	172	105	452	282	734

Table 2.3 Incident cases of hepatitis C infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Exposure category by sex.

Exposure Category	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98		Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
IDU	12	7	26	15	41
Possible Occ Exposure	-	-	1	-	1
Household	-	-	-	1	1
Unknown	-	-	-	2	2
Total	12	7	27	18	45

Table 2.4 Incident cases of hepatitis C infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Age group by sex.

Age Group	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 – 30/09/98		Year to date 01/01/98 – 30/09/98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
15 - 19	6	-	6	3	9
20 - 24	3	5	8	5	13
25 - 29	2	1	11	8	19
30 - 34	1	-	1	-	1
35 - 39	-	-	1	1	2
>40	-	1	-	1	1
Total	12	7	27	18	45

Table 2.5 Summary of laboratory tests for hepatitis C antibodies performed between 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Laboratory by sex.

Laboratory	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98			Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98			
	Male	Female	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Public	4983	5304	63	14229	14720	176	29125
Private	3926	5127	-	10466	13827	-	24293
Total	8909	10431	63	24695	28547	176	53418

HEPATITIS B SURVEILLANCE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Hepatitis B Medical Notification 01/07/98 - 30/09/98

During the third quarter of 1998, 62 hepatitis B medical notifications were received. Of these, two were acute clinical cases of hepatitis B infection (Tables 3.1, 3.2). A further 15 were reports of chronic carriers of greater than twelve months duration, who had been previously diagnosed but not notified. Reports of antigen positivity of uncertain duration accounted for 45 cases (Table 3.3).

Of the 45 reports of antigen positivity of uncertain duration, 40 tested surface antigen positive for the first time this quarter, one case had a previous negative test and the testing history was unknown for the remaining four cases. Among the 40 individuals who tested surface antigen positive for the first time, but were not acute cases, the racial origin of 24 (60%) was reported as Asian (Table 3.4).

The number of hepatitis B surface antigen tests performed by laboratories for this quarter is shown in Table 3.5.

Table 3.1 Acute hepatitis B infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Exposure category by sex.

Exposure Category	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98		Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
IDU	-	-	1	1	2
Heterosexual Contact	-	1	1	1	2
Overseas Travel	-	-	1	1	2
Unknown	1	-	2	1	3
Total	1	1	5	4	9

Table 3.2 Acute hepatitis B infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Age group by sex.

Age Group	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98		Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
10 - 19	-	1	1	2	3
20 - 29	-	-	2	2	4
40 - 49	-	-	1	-	1
50+	1	-	1	-	1
Total	1	1	5	4	9

Table 3.3 Hepatitis B infection, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Case category by sex.

Case Category	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98		Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Acute Infection	1	1	5	4	9
Antigen positive - < 12 months duration	-	-	-	2	2
Antigen positive - uncertain duration	26	19	87	64	151
Chronic carriers - > 12 months duration	6	9	25	24	49
Total	33	29	117	94	211

Table 3.4 Individuals who tested hepatitis B surface antigen positive for the first time, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Race by sex.

Racial Origin	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98		Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Aboriginal	-	-	2	2	4
Asian	13	11	45	36	81
Caucasian	6	6	23	15	38
Other/Unknown	4	-	5	1	6
Total	23	17	75	54	129

Table 3.5 Summary of hepatitis B surface antigen tests performed between 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Laboratory by sex.

Laboratory	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98			Cumulative 01/01/98 - 30/09/98			
	Male	Female	Unknown	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Public	4620	7136	69	13679	20473	227	34379
Private	3614	5156	-	9898	15237	-	25135
Total	8234	12292	69	23577	35710	227	59514

GENITAL CHLAMYDIAL INFECTION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Genital Chlamydial Infection 01/01/98 - 30/09/98

There were 822 cases of genital chlamydial infection notified between 1 January and 30 September 1998 (Table 4.1). Of these, 356 (43%) cases occurred in males and 466 (57%) in females.

Genital Chlamydial Infection 01/07/98 - 30/09/98

Between 1 July and 30 September 1998, 248 cases of chlamydial infection were notified to the STD Control Branch. Annual screening program results from Anangu / Pitjantjatjara lands are included in the current year to date statistics (Table 4.1).

Of the 248 cases of genital chlamydia, 110 (44%) occurred in males and 138 (56%) in females (Table 4.1). Infection in males was evenly distributed across age strata, in females 123 (89%) cases of infection occurred in those aged less than 30 years (Table 4.1).

Laboratory tests for genital chlamydia performed during this quarter are detailed in Table 4.2.

Table 4.1 Genital chlamydial infection in South Australia, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Age group by sex.

Age Group	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98		Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
10 - 14	-	1	-	5	5
15 - 19	9	41	47	154	201
20 - 24	41	54	125	173	298
25 - 29	25	27	96	79	175
30 - 34	15	8	40	25	65
35 - 39	16	5	27	19	46
40+	4	2	21	11	32
Total	110	138	356	466	822

Table 4.2 Summary of laboratory tests for genital chlamydia performed between 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Laboratory by sex.

Laboratory	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98		Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
Public	1405	3616	4309	10846	15155
Private	649	2479	1808	7177	9985
Total	2054	6095	6117	18023	25140

GONOCOCCAL INFECTION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Gonococcal Infection 01/01/98 - 30/09/98

There were 184 cases of gonococcal infection notified between 1 January and 30 September 1998 (Table 5.1).

Gonococcal Infection 01/07/98 - 30/09/98

During the third quarter, 33 cases of gonorrhoea were reported to the STD Control Branch. There were fewer cases of gonococcal infection notified in this quarter than for previous quarters in 1998.

Twenty eight (85%) cases of gonococcal infection occurred in males, and 5 (15%) in females. Infection in males was equally distributed by age (Table 5.1). No cases of conjunctival infection with gonorrhoea were reported during this quarter.

Of the 28 males, nine (32%) reported male to male sexual contact. The majority of infections occurring in males and females were acquired in South Australia (82%).

Table 5.1 Gonococcal infection detected in South Australia, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98 and year to date. Age group by sex.

Age Group	3rd Quarter 01/07/98 - 30/09/98		Year to date 01/01/98 - 30/09/98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
< 15	-	-	1	1	2
15 - 19	5	3	16	27	43
20 - 24	6	1	31	20	51
25 - 29	5	-	31	5	36
30 - 34	6	-	19	4	23
35 - 39	2	-	9	-	9
40+	4	-	17	1	18
Unknown	-	1	1	1	2
Total	28	5	125	59	184

CLINIC 275 ACTIVITY REPORT

Table 6.1 Clinic 275 - Summary Statistics

Diagnosis	Period		Year to date		
	01/07/98 - 30/09/98		01/01/98 - 30/09/98		
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Total
No illness	540	385	1717	1198	2915
HIV	1	-	5	-	5
Gonorrhoea	8	1	29	5	34
Syphilis	-	1	2	2	4
Herpes	24	24	79	81	160
Chlamydia	36	19	124	85	209
NSU	32	na	99	na	99
Warts	206	89	667	263	930
Trichomoniasis	-	2	-	5	5
Candida vaginitis	na	99	na	273	273
Crabs	29	2	83	17	100
Scabies	2	2	5	2	7
Molluscum	36	9	122	26	148
Bacterial vaginosis	na	35	na	158	158
Hepatitis B antigen positive	2	2	5	4	9
Hepatitis C infection	21	12	53	29	82
Urethral irritation	64	na	200	na	200
Balanitis	37	na	111	na	111
Non STD illness	115	69	336	182	518
Post coital contraception	na	68	na	172	172
Abnormal Pap smear	na	45	na	131	131
Other/Uncertain	9	34	38	76	114
Clinic attendances	2243	1563	6874	4623	11497
Episodes of care	1096	792	3458	2378	5836
Individual clients	1028	753	2827	1964	4791

na not applicable

Note: A client may have more than one diagnosis for an episode of care. An individual client may have several episodes of care each requiring one or more attendances. Data on episodes of care and individual clients are from the computerised casenotes system based on date of first visit for an episode of care. Clinic attendances were obtained from the daybook for the time period covered by this report.

Table 6.2 Males diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhoea or *syphilis at C275, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98. Exposure category by infection

Exposure Category	Chlamydia	Gonorrhoea	Total
Homosexual	2	5	7
Heterosexual, IDU	7	1	8
Heterosexual, overseas contact	1	1	2
Heterosexual	26	1	27
Total	36	8	44

* No cases of syphilis were diagnosed during the quarter.

Table 6.3 Males diagnosed with hepatitis C, hepatitis B or HIV infection at C275, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98. Exposure category by infection.

Exposure Category	Hepatitis C	Hepatitis B* Previous exposure	Hepatitis B carrier	HIV	Total
Homosexual	-	7	1	1	9
Homosexual/IDU	-	1	-	-	1
Bisexual	-	3	-	-	3
Heterosexual, IDU	15	8	-	-	23
Heterosexual, o/s#	1	-	1	-	2
Heterosexual	4	7	-	-	11
Other/Unknown	1	1	-	-	2
Total	21	27	2	1	51

* No case of acute hepatitis B diagnosed during the quarter.

* Previous exposure to hepatitis B refers to previous infection and now surface antibody positive.

Overseas contact in the previous three months.

Table 6.4 Females diagnosed with chlamydia, gonorrhoea or syphilis at C275, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98. Exposure category by infection.

Exposure Category	Chlamydia	Gonorrhoea	Syphilis	Total
Heterosexual, IDU	3	-	-	3
Heterosexual	13	1	-	14
Heterosexual, o/s#	1	-	1	2
Sex Worker	2	-	-	2
Total	19	1	1	21

Overseas contact in the previous three months.

Table 6.5 Females diagnosed with hepatitis C, *hepatitis B or *HIV infection at C275, 01/07/98 - 30/09/98. Exposure category by infection.

Exposure Category	Hepatitis C	Hepatitis B** Previous exposure	Hepatitis B carrier	Total
Heterosexual, IDU	7	5	1	13
Heterosexual	-	4	1	5
Sex Worker, IDU	3	1	-	4
Heterosexual, o/s#	1	1	-	2
Other/Unknown	1	1	-	2
Total	12	12	2	26

* No case of HIV or acute hepatitis B diagnosed during reporting period.

** Previous exposure to hepatitis B refers to previous infection and now surface antibody positive.

Overseas contact in the previous three months.

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All data in this report are provisional and subject to future revision.

